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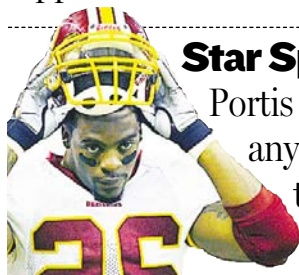
Tuesday



Opposition leader Yushchenko, left, in Kiev.

New Vote? Outgoing leader says a new election could keep Ukraine from splintering | **6**

Cabinet Pick: Kellogg's chief tapped for Commerce post | **3**



Star Spectator:
Portis isn't going anywhere but the bench | **21**

ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Cheer: *Chris Isaak* and other artists release seasonal records. Also, Kumbia Kings; Bochco's 'Over There'; Gloria Vanderbilt.

>> **16-20**



Weather > Mostly Cloudy



50 | 45

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 29

WHITE HOUSE | FIR CHAUFFEUR



HOLIDAY ARRIVAL: First lady Laura Bush watches Monday as the White House Christmas tree arrives at the presidential mansion on a horse-drawn wagon. The tree, an 18 1/2-foot Noble fir donated by a family in Rochester, Wash., will be decorated and displayed in the Blue Room.

Council Expected to OK Stadium

WASHINGTON | A new ballpark for the soon-to-be Washington Nationals appeared to be headed to approval after the chair of the D.C. Council decided not to oppose financing.

The council is scheduled to vote Tuesday, two weeks after Council Chair Linda W. Cropp removed the proposal from the agenda.

"She's not planning to vote against it," Cropp's spokesman, Mark Johnson, said Monday. Seven votes are needed for approval, and Mayor Anthony A. Williams said Monday he expected the council to approve the measure. The deal Washington signed with Major

League Baseball calls for a ballpark to be built south of the Capitol along the Anacostia River and estimates land acquisition, construction of a new ballpark and refurbishing RFK Stadium will cost \$435 million.

Opponents claim the project will total more than \$600 million.

Cropp at first proposed that the ballpark be built next to RFK, which would have required the Expos' approval and could have scuttled the team's move. Cropp, who called off a vote Nov. 9, now wants part of the money to come from private financing. **BRETT ZONGKER (AP)**

Gay Vows Allowed To Stand

High court refuses appeal of same-sex marriage law

WASHINGTON | The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a challenge to the only state that allows gay marriages, declining to hear an appeal aimed at overturning the Massachusetts law that prompted a national debate on the legality and morality of same-sex unions.

The decision ended the legal fight over a 4-3 Massachusetts high court ruling last November giving gay couples the right to marry. But both sides say the court's unwillingness to intervene means there will be more fights in courts and legislatures around the country.

President Bush has promised to make passage of an anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment a priority in his second term.

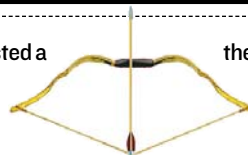
Lambda and other gay-rights groups were heartened the justices let the Massachusetts ruling stand.

"The bottom line is nobody is being harmed by the Massachusetts state law treating all couples equally," said David Buckel, Lambda's legal marriage project director.

Liberty Counsel, the Florida-based conservative group that filed the challenge to the law, argued the Massachusetts court ruling violated the U.S. Constitution because state judges had made a decision more properly decided by elected legislatures. **HOPE YEN (AP)**

♦ **Pot dispute:** Justices consider whether federal pot ban trumps state medical marijuana laws | **Page 4**

PLOTS | Prison Cells Authorities in Sweden have arrested a man they say shot mobile phones into the yard of a high-security prison with a bow and arrows. The 25-year-old man taped two cell phones and a battery charger to three arrows,



then fired them over the 12-foot wall into a Stockholm prison Friday night, police said. He was arrested after police found his car with a bow hidden underneath. Police suspect the phones were to coordinate a break-out. (AP) **EyeOpeners** | **Page 2**

eyeOpeners

DECOYS

A Model Officer

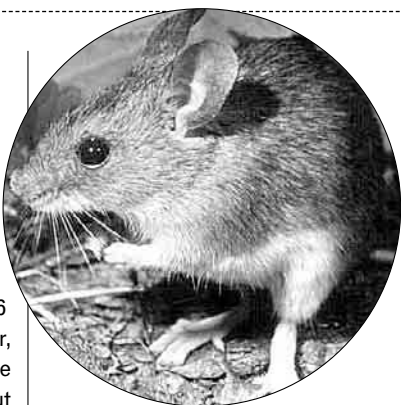
Rick Pyburn of Albany, Ore., was sick and tired of lead-footed motorists speeding past his home. Already, he had lost five chickens to speeding hit-and-run drivers. Local police said they didn't have the resources to help — so

Pyburn built a cop of his own. He constructed the front half of a sheriff's car out of plywood, and set up the decoy near the road, in plain view of oncoming drivers. Pyburn said the decoy works, prompting speeding drivers to suddenly slow down. He is updating the structure and plans to market copies of the car. (AP)

SURVEILLANCE

Mooching Mouse

Someone was stealing cash from the register in a Villach, Austria, shop, but thanks to a video camera, authorities got their man — and it was a mouse. The shop owner became suspicious after \$66 went missing from his cash register, so he turned to the store's surveillance camera for clues. The thief turned out to be a mouse looking for nesting material, officials said Monday. The critter



was caught on camera with its paw in the till. (AP)



ROBIN LOZNAK/AP

PETS

Saint Lick-olous

Santa's elves will have to increase their Milkbone and chew-toy production this season. "Santa Paws" made a visit to Great Falls, Mont., to sit for portraits with pets both naughty and nice on Sunday. Santa is scheduled to decipher pets' Christmas wishes through Tuesday at a local PETCO store — while their owners dish out \$10 for each photograph. Proceeds from the event, organized by the Humane Society and Animal Crackers, benefit animals at the society. (AP)

PRIVACY

The Fax of Life

A mix-up by a Canadian bank caused reams of sensitive customer information to be faxed to a West Virginia junkyard, the Toronto Globe and Mail reported Friday. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce mixed up the fax number for CIBC's central fax unit with a toll-free number for an auto-accessories business, AllStar Sportsline Products Inc. Owner Wade Peer was deluged by CIBC fund transfer request forms — with social insurance numbers and bank account data — to his business fax line. CIBC, Canada's fourth-largest bank, was notified of the problem in 2002, but the faxes continued until



2004, AllStar told the bank last month. Peer is suing the bank for negligence. CIBC apologized Friday.

(EXPRESS)

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50%

The percent drop in violent crimes against students in schools between 1992 and 2002, according to a new government report. There were about 24 violent crimes, including rape and robbery, for every 1,000 students in 2002.

Nation

Ebersol's Son Believed Dead in Colo. Jet Crash

MONTROSE, COLO. | The 14-year-old son of NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol was presumed dead Monday after a fiery jet crash that killed two crewmen and left the injured executive and another of his sons begging bystanders for help.

The aircraft with six people on board crashed during a snowstorm Sunday while taking off from the airport outside this small town 185 miles southwest of Denver. Federal authorities had no immediate word on the cause of the crash.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene following the crash. Charles Ebersol, the sports executive's 21-year-old son, was screaming for help and saying his brother was still on the plane, according to Doug Percival, a driver at a towing service who was one of the first to arrive.

With light snow falling, crews



Investigators walk through the site of the jet crash in Montrose, Colo., Monday.

began picking through the charred and twisted wreckage of the jet.

Deputy coroner Matt Eilts said a search had turned up no sign of Edward, a freshman at a Connecticut boarding school.

"We believe at this time that the boy has probably perished within the crash," Eilts said.

JOHN MARSHALL (AP)

Schools Win Suit on Military Recruiting

PHILADELPHIA | A federal appeals court barred the Defense Department from withholding funds from colleges and universities that deny access to military recruiters.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday said a decade-old federal law which allows withholding the funds infringes on the free speech rights of schools that wish to limit on-campus recruiting

in response to the military's ban on homosexuals.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of more than a dozen law schools, a three-judge panel said the government's threat to withhold funding amounted to compelling the schools to take part in speech they didn't agree with.

The Justice Department, which represented the government, said it was reviewing appeal options. (AP)

Commerce Chief Selected

Bush picks CEO of cereal giant Kellogg for key economic post

WASHINGTON | President Bush picked Carlos Gutierrez, the chief executive officer of cereal giant Kellogg Co., as commerce secretary Monday, working to build a new economic team to help sell second-term overhauls of Social Security and the tax code.

The move was Bush's first step in replacing his economic advisers. The White House offered no promise of job security to Treasury Secretary John Snow, who has made clear he wants to remain.

Officials said the challenges of the second term could require leaders with different skills from the first term when the biggest problems were pushing tax cuts and dealing with recession.



Gutierrez

Bush called Gutierrez a visionary and one of America's most respected business leaders, a man who rose to the top at Kellogg's from a first job as a truck driver in Mexico City peddling Frosted Flakes to local stores. Born in Cuba and brought to America at age 6, he had learned English from a bellhop at a Miami hotel.

At Commerce, Gutierrez, 51, would be charged with improving the fortunes of America's struggling manufacturing sector, which has seen the loss of 2.7 million jobs over the past four years as the country's trade deficit has soared to record levels. He also would be a key player in the administration's campaign for major changes in Social Security and the tax system.

Gutierrez has been credited with overhauling Kellogg's operations as well as providing new life for its older brands. TERENCE HUNT (AP)

Number crunchers: The White House begins reshaping its economic team | Today's Post, A Section

TRAIN COLLISION | DEADLY WRECK



CRASH SITE: Wreckage from two CSX cargo trains that collided head-on near Dade City, Fla., early Monday morning is strewn around the tracks as officials work nearby. One crew member was killed and three others injured in the crash.

PAUL LAMISON/WFLA-TV VIA THE TAMPA TRIBUNE/AP

Wheaton

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Nation



LETTER LOAD: The Postal Service expects to handle 20 billion pieces of mail between Thanksgiving and Christmas, up slightly from last year, the agency said Monday. The peak mailing day is expected to be Dec. 20, with as many as 850 million items sent that day alone.

Justices Review Pot Laws

High court hears case on potential limits of medical marijuana use

WASHINGTON | The Supreme Court questioned whether state medical marijuana laws might be abused by people who aren't really sick as it debated on Monday whether the federal government can prosecute patients who smoke pot on doctors' orders.

The stakes are high on both the government level — 11 states have passed medical marijuana laws since 1996 — and the personal.

In the courtroom for the argument was Angel Raich, an Oakland, Calif., mother of two who said she tried dozens of prescription medicines to ease the pain of a brain tumor and other illnesses before she turned to marijuana. She and another ill woman, Diane Monson, filed a lawsuit after federal agents confiscated marijuana plants from Monson's yard.

A defeat for the two California women might undermine laws passed by California and 10 other states and discourage other states from approving their own.

A loss for the government, on the other hand, could jeopardize federal oversight of illegal drugs, among other issues. GINA HOLLAND (AP)



Angel Raich, left, and Diane Monson, heard the Supreme Court debate a case on their medicinal use of marijuana.

Medical use: High court's justices not receptive to marijuana case | Today's Washington Post, A Section

HOLIDAY DISPLAYS | CHRISTMAS IN THE SUN



TREE LINEUP: Domingo Diaz, left, and his girlfriend, Lucia Martinez, visit the annual Christmas in The Park display in downtown San Jose, Calif., on Monday. The display, which includes a toy and food drive, is marking its 25th anniversary.

Army Copter Crash in Texas Kills 7

Black Hawk hit wires on a TV tower that lacked warning lights

BRUCEVILLE-EDDY, TEXAS | An Army helicopter carrying seven soldiers crashed and burned in the fog Monday after hitting a web of support wires on a TV transmission tower whose warning lights had been knocked out in a storm last week, officials said. Everyone aboard was killed.

The UH-60 Black Hawk, bound for the Red River Army Depot in

Texarkana, went down in a field about 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood. The fog was so thick when emergency crews arrived that they could not see more than halfway up the tower, authorities said.

The helicopter was headed to check out equipment being readied for use in Iraq, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington, spokesman for the Fort Hood-based 4th Infantry Division. The names of the victims, all from Fort Hood, were not immediately released.

An investigation team was sent to the scene to determine the cause



The wreckage of an Army helicopter that crashed near Bruceville-Eddy, Texas.

of the crash. Withington said the team's priority as "to secure the scene and recover the bodies." (AP)

Tired of Tae Bo? Try Belly Dancing

PORTLAND, MAINE | Most don't look like harem girls and few midriffs are showing. But they sure seem to be belly dancing.

Belly dancing has emerged as a form of exercise for those who find its sultry undulations more their speed than hours of aerobics or weightlifting. As with Pilates and yoga, you do not have to be willowy to belly dance.

Considered a folk dance in some cultures, a celebration of femininity in others, belly dancing is thought to



Jeanne Handy leads a group of novice belly dancers in Brunswick, Maine.

have been introduced in the United States during the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

The allure of belly dancing in the new millennium lies in its low-impact mix of meditation and workout, experts say. The ancient dance is now less about sultry moves or Middle Eastern culture than feeling fit and losing weight.

"It appeals to the person who, for whatever reason, has not found traditional exercise to be their cup of tea," said Cedric Bryant, chief exercise physiologist at the American Council on Exercise in San Diego. "It has really grown out of people looking at alternative modes of activity to spice up their workout." (AP)

In Brief

REDWOOD CITY, CALIF.

Court Nixes Request for New Jury in Peterson Case

The California Supreme Court on Monday rejected a request from Scott Peterson's lawyers that a new jury be selected to decide whether he should get the death penalty. The ruling clears the way for the penalty phase to start on Tuesday. The same six-man, six-woman jury that convicted Peterson on Nov. 12 of murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, and the fetus she carried will decide whether he should get life in prison or death. (AP)

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Hatfill's Libel Suit Against New York Times Dismissed

A federal judge has dismissed a libel lawsuit brought against The New York Times by Steven Hatfill, who claimed the newspaper falsely insinuated he was responsible for the deadly anthrax attacks in 2001. U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton also dismissed Hatfill's lawsuit against Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, who wrote several columns in 2002 on the FBI's handling of the anthrax investigation. (AP)

NEWARK, N.J.

State Says Up to 1,000 Birds Could Die in River Oil Spill

As many as 1,000 geese, ducks and gulls may have perished in the Delaware River after a Greek-owned tanker leaked 30,000 gallons of crude oil, the state Department of Environmental Protection said Monday. Spokeswoman Elaine Makatura said about 3,000 of the waterfowl lived in the area, where workers continued to search for surviving birds Monday. (AP)



A Canada goose covered with oil gets a soapy bath on Monday in Newark, Del.



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World



SCARLETT FEVER: U.S. Civil War saga "Gone With the Wind" is the most-watched movie in British history, with some 35 million tickets sold, the British Film Institute said Sunday. "The Sound of Music" is No. 2, selling 30 million tickets.

Ukrainian Leader Urges New Vote

Kuchma offer comes as court mulls fraud claims

KIEV, UKRAINE | Seeking a respite from the mounting opposition pressure, outgoing President Leonid Kuchma said that a new election could be held, while Ukraine's Supreme Court was probing the validity of the bitterly disputed presidential runoff.



Kuchma

Facing tens of thousands of supporters of Western-leaning candidate Viktor Yushchenko who have flooded Kiev and laid siege to official buildings, Kuchma said a new vote was a compromise to avoid splitting the nation and sending it deeper into chaos.

"If we really want to preserve peace and accord, if we really want to build a democratic state ... let's hold new elections," said Kuchma, who had backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich — the

announced winner of the Nov. 21 presidential runoff the West has refused to recognize.

Kuchma spoke as Yushchenko's supporters contested the vote in the Supreme Court, demanding that it cancel the official results because of evidence of official fraud.

Yushchenko urged his supporters in Kiev to maintain their vigil despite freezing temperatures. "The next couple of days will bring a solution," Yushchenko told the crowd.

He said the opposition expects the court's verdict soon, and added that it would also move Tuesday to topple Yanukovich's Cabinet through a no-confidence motion in parliament.

Kuchma, meanwhile, warned that the country's financial system could "fall apart like a house of cards" under the impact of protests that swept the nation of 48 million. NATASHA LISOVA (AP)



Supreme Court judges vote on a motion Monday. The court gave Yanukovich's legal team until Tuesday to study evidence of fraud presented by the opposition.

Changing tide: The possibility of a new vote has won increasing support from pro-government forces who were initially hostile to the idea | **Today's Post: Section A**

IAEA OKs Plan to Police Iran Nukes

U.S. dissatisfied; says it may take concerns to Security Council

VIENNA, AUSTRIA | The U.N. nuclear agency agreed Monday on a plan for policing Iran's nuclear programs designed to avoid a showdown at the United Nations. But Iran's representative immediately raised questions about the wording of the pact, and the United States said it retained

the right to take the case to the U.N. Security Council.

U.S. chief delegate Jackie Sanders listed more than a dozen open questions about Iran's past nuclear activities still before the International Atomic Energy Agency, despite a nearly two-year probe. "The IAEA cannot ... offer the necessary assurances that Iran is not attempting to

produce nuclear material for weapons," she said.

Sanders spoke shortly after the board passed a toned-down resolution authorizing the IAEA to monitor Iran's commitment to freeze uranium enrichment activities that can produce either low-grade nuclear fuel or the raw material for atomic weapons. GEORGE JAHN (AP)

Setback: Resolution's passage made clear there was little support for the Bush administration's drive to ratchet up pressure on Iran | **Today's Post: Section A**

China Aims High With Free-Trade Pact

VIENTIANE, LAOS | Rising power China moved Monday to expand its influence in a region long dominated by the United States, signing an accord with Southeast Asian nations aimed at creating the world's largest free trade area by 2010 — a sprawling market of nearly 2 billion people.

China's concerns about securing vital sea lanes and feeding its booming economy's ravenous appetite for oil and raw materials were seen as key motivations for the trade pact with the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the group's annual summit in Laos.

But some analysts believe the

agreement shows how an increasingly bold China is forging new alliances that would reduce, and possibly eventually challenge, America's influence in Asia.

Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN's secretary-general, said trade with China could equal \$140 billion by 2010. In comparison, the annual ASEAN-U.S. trade is \$120 billion, he said. (AP)

Bin Laden Aide: We Could Fight 'Until Doomsday'

CAIRO, EGYPT | Osama bin Laden's top deputy vowed in a videotape aired Monday to keep fighting the United States until Washington changed its policies.

In a brief excerpt broadcast on Al-Jazeera television, Ayman al-



al-Zawahiri

Zawahiri offered Americans "one last advice." "You have to choose between one of two methods to deal with Muslims: either on mutual respect and

exchange of interests, or to deal with them as if they are spoils of war," al-Zawahiri said. "... We will stand firm to fight you with God's help until doomsday."

A U.S. intelligence official said authorities have "a high degree of confidence" the tape was authentic. (AP)

In Brief

CHINA

Bodies Recovered in Mine Blast Push Death Toll to 50

About 50 mine workers were confirmed dead and more than 100 still missing, the government said Tuesday, as toxic fumes unleashed from an explosion at a coal mine in central China slowed rescuers from entering the pit. Crews recovered "more than 20" additional casualties from Sunday's blast at the mine in Shaanxi province, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. (AP)

COLOMBIA

Government Backs Off Claim Rebels Plotted Against Bush

Colombia's government backed off Monday on a statement by Defense Minister Jorge Uribe's that Marxist rebels wanted to assassinate President Bush. Uribe said Friday that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia ordered followers to "attack" Bush during his Nov. 22 visit to Colombia. The Interior and Justice minister said the government had no knowledge of a specific plan to target Bush. (AP)

SPAIN

Former P.M. Testifies in Parliament Over Bombings

Before a parliamentary commission investigating the Madrid train bombings, former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar dismissed as a "lie" allegations that he misled Spaniards by initially blaming Basque separatists. The former prime minister was on the defensive for most of the 11 hours he was interrogated, the longest of any of the 53 witnesses. The hearing was broadcast live nationwide. It was the first time a former Spanish prime minister had testified in a parliamentary probe. (AP)



Aznar appears before the commission.

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT: The tiny, impoverished Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan next month will become the first country in the world to ban all smoking in public and all sales of tobacco.



World



HEAVY BURDEN: U.S. troops evacuate one of 13 Marines wounded in a mortar attack on a base south of Baghdad on Monday.

Bloody Month for U.S. in Iraq

November deadliest since March 2003 invasion

BAGHDAD | Insurgents stepped up attacks on Iraq's fledgling security forces, killing seven Iraqi police and guardsmen Monday in a suicide bombing. The military, meanwhile, reported five new U.S. deaths.

Monday's suicide attack occurred in Baghdad, about 120 miles northwest of the capital, where a driver detonated his vehicle near a police checkpoint, police Lt. Mohammed al-Fehdawi said.

Military offensives in Fallujah and elsewhere have made November the second deadliest month for U.S. troops since the March 2003 invasion, with at least 130 dead.

Two American soldiers were killed Monday in a roadside bomb explosion in northwestern Baghdad, the U.S. command said. Another

died in a vehicle accident near Kut in eastern Iraq, the military said. And two Marines were killed in a weekend bombing south of the capital, a U.S. official said Monday. U.S., British and Iraqi forces have been sweeping through the area to clear Sunni insurgents from a string of towns and cities between Baghdad and the Shiite shrine cities of Najaf and Karbala. **ROBERT H. REID (AP)**



Powers: The top U.S. figures in Iraq — Gen. George Casey Jr., Ambassador John Negroponte — wield much authority despite low profiles | **Today's Post: Section A**

Sudan Expels Leaders Of 2 British Aid Groups

KHARTOUM, SUDAN | Sudan on Monday ordered the expulsion of the country directors of two humanitarian organizations, saying they violated a law against interfering in domestic affairs with their statements to the press about renewed violence in Darfur.

The expulsion order, which accused Save the Children UK and Oxfam International of sending "signals of support" to rebels, was a troubling echo of past difficulties between aid workers and Sudan's government, which had largely kept

international groups out of Darfur for more than a year after violence erupted. The chief U.N. envoy for Sudan, Jan Pronk, has pressed the government to reverse its order and is awaiting a response, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

A rebellion in Darfur has provoked a counterinsurgency that has killed thousands and displaced about 1.8 million people. Aid groups have reported this month on a fresh outbreak of violence following a Nov. 9 cease-fire pact between rebels and the government. **(AP)**

3 Cuban Dissidents Freed From Prison

HAVANA | Three dissidents from a group of 75 arrested in a broad crackdown last year were unexpectedly released Monday for health reasons, according to friends, relatives and local rights activists.

Those freed on parole included economics writer Oscar Espinosa Chepe, who had been hospitalized behind bars for months with a liver ailment. Espinosa Chepe's cause has become well known among rights groups outside of Cuba.

The latest releases bring to 10 the number of dissidents in the original group of 75 who have since been freed after being sentenced. **(AP)**

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World



PRODUCT PLACEMENT: Fifty homeless people in the Netherlands have agreed to wear jackets with Ben & Jerry's logos under a new program started by a group of nuns that aims to keep the homeless warm and raise money for charity.

Chile Tries to Make Amends

Lagos floats proposal to compensate victims of Pinochet-era torture

SANTIAGO, CHILE | Three decades after being imprisoned and tortured during the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, Mireya Garcia is among 27,000 Chileans who will finally get government compensation.

"It's very special for us, who were kept anonymous for almost 31 years, that the state admits that we were tortured," Garcia said Monday. "[It] is the first act of reparation."

President Ricardo Lagos announced the plan Sunday night following the release of a gruesome report on torture during Pinochet's 1973-90 regime, prepared by a commission that heard testimony from



Protesters, holding pictures of alleged torture victims, march on the presidential palace in Santiago Monday, demanding the torturers be punished.

more than 35,000 people.

The report described the torture methods used at detention centers set up after Pinochet seized power in a bloody coup and launched a fierce repression against suspected leftist dissidents.

While the payments are small — about \$190 a month — they will double the pensions of many victims. Victims and their relatives also will receive free education, housing and health benefits. The program, which still must be approved by Congress, will cost the government some \$70 million a year.

Some victims were dissatisfied with the government's offer. Jorge Saez, now 51, was a communist activist and university student when he was arrested in 1974. "I feel a tremendous frustration," he said. "... We heard nothing about justice, about punishing the torturers."

A debate was indeed growing, with retired military officers calling the report biased, and politicians who worked with Pinochet being challenged to assume their responsibilities in the abuses. (AP)

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SEEING (NEW) SPOTS: For the first time in its 115-year history, a litter of cheetahs has been born at the National Zoo. Four cubs were born last Tuesday to four-year-old mother Tumai, officials said. The zoo now has a total of 10 cheetahs.

Local

Chesapeake Bay Receives a 'D'

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | The program to save the Chesapeake Bay "is fast becoming a national disgrace," and there was no overall improvement in the health of the bay over the last year, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation said Monday.

The organization gave the bay a grade of 27 out of 100 — which it considers a D — on the report card it issues each year examining progress on solving pollution, habitat and fisheries problems. While there was movement on various components of the report card, the overall score was the same as last year.

Rockfish stocks remain high and forest buffers and wetlands are holding their own, the report said. There was improvement in water quality, but it got an F, as did dissolved oxygen levels and pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus. (AP)

College Park Blazes Ruled Arsons

Hotel, restaurant damaged in nearby Md. fires

COLLEGE PARK, MD. | Prince George's County fire investigators searched for links between two Monday morning arson fires that were set at restaurants just a few blocks apart on U.S. Route 1 near the University of Maryland.

The first fire started shortly before 6 a.m. on the outer walls of the restaurant of a Best Western Hotel. Guests escaped from about 20 rooms but firefighters had to rescue three people from a third-floor room when flames blocked their escape. No one was injured.

While that blaze ate through outer walls of the hotel, a large column of gray smoke shot into the air from nearby Lasicks restaurant, according to fire spokesman Mark Brady. Rushing north

on Route 1, fire crews discovered heavy flames coming from the three-story building.

Investigators believe the fires started near natural gas meters that feed the kitchens of both buildings. Brady called the two incidents "strikingly similar" but said there was still no conclusive link between the two.

Investigators were looking for suspects in the case, but Brady said the serial arsonist who has set dozens of fires in the D.C. area in the past year has been ruled out. Both fires shut down traffic over a one-mile stretch on the heavily traveled Route 1. The road was reopened shortly before 3 p.m., according to Dave Buck of the State Highway Administration.

STEPHEN MANNING (AP)



Prince George's County Fire Department personnel assess a fire at the Lasicks Restaurant in College Park, Md., Monday. The fire was one of two arsons in the area.

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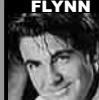
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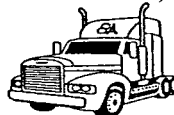
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A rescue worker surveys damage at the collapsed garage in Bethesda, Md., Monday.

Construction Worker Dies In Garage Collapse

BETHESDA, MD. | A construction worker was killed Monday when he was pinned under debris from the partial collapse of a garage under construction at the National Institutes of Health.

Part of the top two floors of the six-story garage collapsed about 9 a.m.

Dogs and cranes were brought in to search for the victim, who was found on the fourth floor, said Pete Piringer, a spokesman for Montgomery County Fire and

Rescue. The man's name was not immediately released.

While the cause remained under investigation, NIH officials said they believe a beam slipped and hit one of the floors, causing it to collapse onto the level below. "I heard a real loud noise," said Justin Morales, an electrician working on the second floor at the time of the accident.

NIH said construction on the 930-space garage began in December 2003 and it was to be finished in February or March. (AP)

3 Rail Fractures Found on Red Line

WASHINGTON | Track work to repair three rail fractures delayed travel Monday morning along both directions of the Red Line, Metro said.

All three were found overnight between the Bethesda and

Friendship Heights stops during track inspections, a spokeswoman said. Two were fixed later that morning; the third was to be repaired after the system closed for the night.

Metro finds 40 to 60 such fractures each year, the spokeswoman said, which are "aggressively" sought and fixed before they can form dangerous breaks in the rail. (EXPRESS)

The Lotteries

Monday, Nov. 29

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	6-2-2
Evening Lucky Numbers	5-6-8
Mid-day DC 4	5-9-2-0
Evening DC 4	6-4-0-0
Quick Cash	12-11-19-5-8-35
Hot Five	26-23-31-15-28

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	2-9-6
Evening Pick 3	6-9-0
Mid-day Pick 4	0-5-5-3
Evening Pick 4	5-5-2-3
Match 5	3-11-12-23-34 Bonus: 7

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	7-4-0
Mid-day Pick 4	9-2-7-7
Mid-day Cash 5	7-18-29-32-33

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

BUYER'S REMORSE: All the gifts listed in the yuletide classic "The Twelve Days of Christmas," if bought repeatedly on each day as the song suggests, would today cost \$66,334 — up \$1,070 from last year, according to PNC Financial Services Group Inc.



Money

Shoppers Swarm the Web

Sales on Thanksgiving Day up 100%, firm says

NEW YORK | Computer-savvy consumers did plenty of online shopping over the Thanksgiving weekend, giving companies like Amazon.com and walmart.com the same kickoff to the holiday season that department stores and malls had.

Online sales, excluding travel, shot up 100 percent to \$133 million on Thanksgiving Day compared to

the same day last year, said comScore Networks Inc., an Internet research company. On Friday, online sales hit \$250 million, up 41 percent.

Historically, the online shopping season has begun the Monday after Thanksgiving, when consumers begin buying from their workplace computers. But the early start this year can be attributed to two phe-

nomena: Merchants are working harder to get online sales, and millions have converted to high-speed Internet connections, making it easier to shop from home.

According to Nielsen/NetRatings, the sites that had the biggest spikes this past Friday were those operated by traditional retailers: Toysrus.com's traffic soared 212.6 percent on Friday, while Amazon.com was up 49.7 percent. ANNE D'INNOCENZIO (AP)

Natural Disasters Send Tomato Prices Soaring

Price of a 25-lb. box rockets from \$6 to \$45

East Coast hurricanes, West Coast rains and pestilence in Mexico have created a nationwide tomato shortage and a bonanza for southern California tomato farmers.

The harvest will end shortly, depending on the weather, but what the growers have left is going for about \$45 per 25-pound box — compared with a money-losing \$5 to \$6 back in midsummer.

California is the second-largest producer of fresh tomatoes in the United States. Florida normal-

ly would be supplying the bulk at this time of year, but the hurricanes this fall delayed planting, creating the shortage. Adding to the woes, a pest known as the tomato psyllid has damaged the Mexican crop in Baja California, which exports about 12 million boxes to the United States.

All told, about 120,000 boxes of tomatoes are available domestically each day, about a quarter of the normal supply, said Ed Beckman, president of the California Tomato Commission. JERRY HIRSCH (L.A. TIMES)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
IntegES	3.06	+36	+13.3
Gpolmsa	26.65	+2.51	+10.4
PepBoy	16.12	+1.27	+8.6
Carters	34.06	+2.61	+8.3
GoodrPet	15.87	+1.22	+8.3

Losers

EIPasoCp	10.59	-.91	-7.9
Aquila	3.50	-.25	-6.7
Oakley	12.87	-.88	-6.4
Navteq n	43.31	-2.71	-5.9
TmpRusEE	41.50	-2.42	-5.5

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
ActnPr	3.18	+1.08	+51.4
HrvyElc	2.59	+.82	+46.3
Bitstrm	3.46	+1.02	+41.8
LogicVisn	2.15	+.46	+27.2
WorldGate	2.47	+.48	+24.1

Losers

RurICellA n	5.03	-.96	-16.0
DialCpA s	13.99	-2.60	-15.7
eOnCom	2.35	-.41	-14.9
VestinGp rs	2.92	-.51	-14.9
Interchg n	26.06	-4.54	-14.8

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.00	5.00
Fed Funds close	2.0625	2.00
3-month	2.16	2.16
2-year	3.06	2.94
10-year	4.32	4.18
30-year	4.96	4.84

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5280	.5277	.5809
Canadian Dollar	1.1838	1.1768	1.2983
European Euro	.7534	.7524	.8342
Japanese Yen	102.82	102.56	109.55
Mexican Peso	11.2620	11.2550	11.3780
Taiwanese Dollar	32.17	32.08	34.17

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-46.33	+4.90	-4.08
-0.44	+0.23	-0.34
10475.90	2106.87	1178.57

Biotech Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
Amgen	60.74	+.53	-1.7
ApplBio	20.80	-.01	+.4
BiogenIdc	58.90	+.47	+60.5
Celgene s	27.30	-.09	+21.7
Chiron	32.99	-.36	-42.1
Genentech s	49.21	+.49	+5.2
Genzyme	55.84	-.18	+13.3
GileadSci s	34.16	-.35	+17.2
Imclone	42.27	-.51	+6.6
Invitrogn	60.64	-.32	-13.3
LabCp	47.78	-.11	+29.3
MedImun	27.01	+.08	+6.4
MillPhar	12.60	+.01	-32.4
Monsnto	45.94	+.33	+59.6
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Health Screening And Financial Compensation Provided.

Where: Walter Reed Army Institute Of Research in Silver Spring, MD

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Please call Patricia Richards at 1-800-356-9462, for more information by no later than Thursday, December 2, 2004 (Mo - Fr 8:30 am - 5:30 pm ET).

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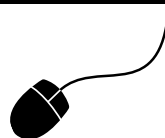
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CLAIRE DUGGAN

WHAT IT IS: Before Cinnabon bakes its first batch or Forever 21 throws wide its gates, Westfield Health & Fittesstown Montgomery — aka Montgomery Mall — hosts anyone who wants to work up a sweat while pacing up and down its corridors. The doors open every day at 6 a.m., so walkers come throughout the week. During these sessions a nurse is on call to take blood pressure and organize group festivities. Other malls in the region have similar programs.

WHY IT IS: With a temperature-controlled environment and flat surfaces galore, a mall is the perfect place for the treadmill-averse. "Although I don't think a tile floor is the greatest," notes 66-year-old David Goodman. Doctors strongly recommend walking as a workout for seniors, especially those recovering from heart operations. The ability to window shop is

an added bonus during the holiday season.

MOVES: It's a step above a stroll, but no one seems to speed walk. Distance-wise, the perimeter of the second floor is a half mile, according to Westfield Health & Fittesstown.

CROWD: The 30 or so regulars, mostly between the ages of 50 and 80, like to travel in pairs or trios so they can talk while they walk. "We want to know, 'Are you still mad at your mother-in-law?'" said Mickie Greenberg, 70, who's been mallwalking since 1980. After a workout (up to a few miles for some), they gather in the food court to have breakfast and gab more.

GARB: Sweat pants are in, and pedometers are a popular accessory. Folks who have to hit the office afterward (nope, they're not all retired) often show up in their regular work attire. VICKY HALLETT



LIVE ONLINE

Lean
Plate Club

SALLY SQUIRES' column appears Tuesdays in The Washington Post. She chats every Tuesday at 1 p.m. on washingtonpost.com/liveonline.

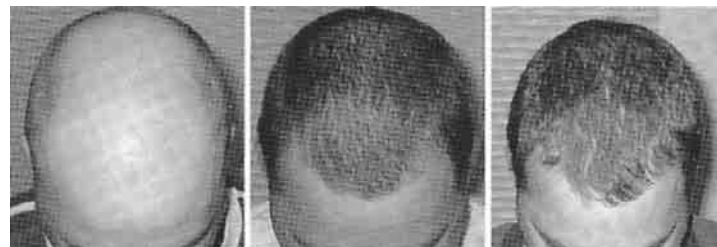
What is the nutritional value of eggplant? It tends to soak up a lot of oil. Am I really getting much nutritional bang for the buck eating eggplant, or merely pleasure?

Eggplant is a great-tasting food and a vegetable, so right there it's got two good things going for it. You're right, it does soak up oil. Nutritionally speaking, a half cup of eggplant has just 14 calories and is low in fat, sodium and protein. It has about 1 gram of fiber and provides some vitamin C, A and iron.

I bought fresh green beans. Do you have a great low-calorie, kid-friendly recipe?

Here's one that gets raves in my house: Sautee those green beans in olive oil with slivers of almonds.

What's the reason for



your thin or thinning hair?



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- Post-Partum Changes
- Chemical Processing
- Medications
- Stress
- Diet

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- Heredity
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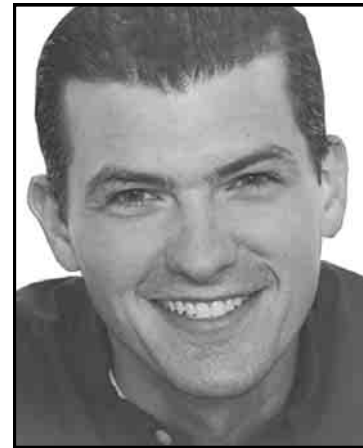
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WPE 10/20/04

Entertainment

FIGHTING WORDS: Diminutive documentarian Ric Burns is back in the info-gathering game; his next film "Unforgivable



Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson," about the life of the iconic boxer, will air beginning Jan. 17.

Sounds of the Season

Various musicians make joyful noise on CDs for the holidays

Jessica Simpson: *ReJoyce: The Christmas Album*

Jessica Simpson offers a variety of holiday treats for older fans and her young base on "ReJoyce" (Columbia).

She wisely chose to anchor "ReJoyce" with classics: "The Christmas Song," "O Holy Night" and "What Child Is This." She delivers a simply beautiful rendition of "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)," and performs "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" with a gospel choir.

On the flip side, Simpson puts her own stamp on secular standards, which get a retro-'50s jazzy treatment. The throwback vibe continues on the album's first single "Baby, It's Cold Outside" with husband Nick Lachey and the fun "It's Christmas Time Again." CARYN ROUSSEAU (AP)



Chris Isaak: *Chris Isaak Christmas*

Ripping off wild guitar riffs in between the smoothest of smooth vocals has always been Chris Isaak's claim to fame, and it's charming to hear him pull it off again on this Warner Bros. holiday album.

Hearing him put his signature croon on "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," just feels perfect. He hits all the right notes on "The Christmas Song" too, with light and jazzy guitar chords melting into the background.

His backing band, Silvertone, is in top form as usual. With Isaak's pipes and Silvertone's thoughtful approach to each song, "Chris Isaak Christmas" makes for great listening with a holiday toddy in hand.

RON E. HARRIS (AP)

Dianne Reeves: *Christmas Time Is Here*

On her first-ever holiday CD, released on Blue Note, Dianne Reeves displays her Grammy-winning virtuosity.

Reeves' rich voice builds in dynamic intensity as she sings "Little Drummer Boy" to the sparse accompaniment of a syncopated reggae-jazz beat. She turns "Carol of the Bells" into a rapid-tempo swinger and treats Vince Guaraldi's "Christmas Time Is Here" (from "A Charlie Brown Christmas") as an intimate ballad.

Reeves' love affair with Brazilian music is reflected in the soothing bossa nova version of "This Time of the Year" and the more upbeat "Christmas Waltz" with its samba-reggae groove.

Reeves has shaped these holiday tunes to fit her own musical tastes, but her performances are always accessible. It's a Christmas CD that should keep on giving a warm glow for seasons to come.

CHARLES J. GANS (AP)

Barenaked Ladies: *Barenaked for the Holidays*

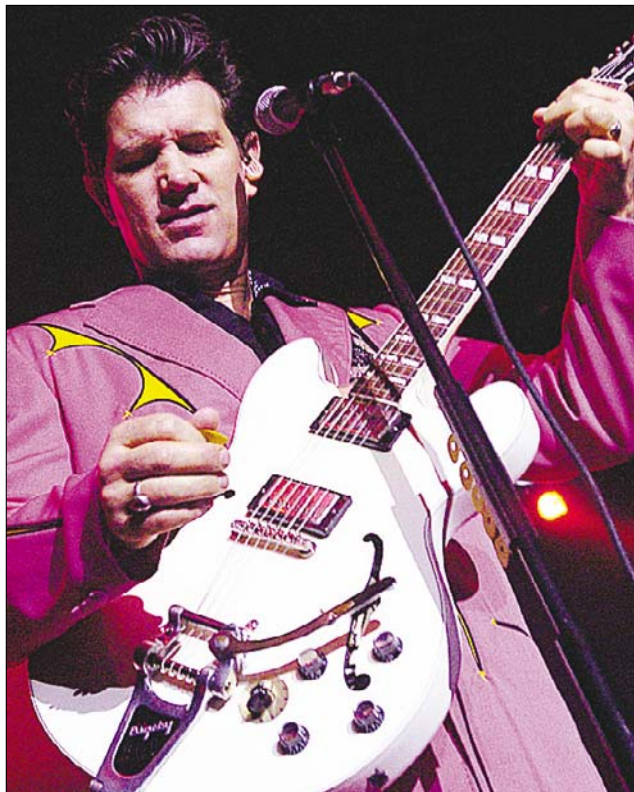
The fine "ladies" from Canada need

no introduction. The all-male quintet's blend of quirky lyrics coupled with jangly, danceable music has made them more than a cult favorite nearly worldwide.

This 20-song, nearly 47-minute album is the personification of Barenaked Ladies: fun, irreverent and a refreshing accompaniment for sitting around the Christmas tree, lighting the Menorah or grumbling at the department store.

There's a nice blend of holiday favorites on here — "I Saw Three Ships" and "O Holy Night" and "I Have a Little Dreidel" — but the true gems are the originals. "Elf's Lament," is a laugh-out-loud look at what it's like for Santa's elves who have to endure the hustle of meeting millions of Christmas wishes. "Christmas Pics" is a jazz-inflected look back at family traditions and photo snapshots of the holidays.

Throw in a cover of "Do They Know It's Christmas?" and the holiday is complete. MATT MOORE (AP)



MERRY HAPPY NON-DENOMINATIONAL WINTER HOLIDAY: Musicians such as Jessica Simpson, Chris Isaak and Barenaked Ladies perform their favorite Christmas carols and seasonal classics on a whole slew of albums they hope will be equally givable and gettable.

Various: *'Chrismukkah: Music From the O.C.'*

The creators of "The O.C." home in on the profitable teenage market with the release of this Warner Bros. compilation.

The opening track by Danish imports The Raveonettes is an unrecognizable rendition of "The Christmas Song." Low's original "Just like Christmas," off their 1999 Christmas album, is a delicate pop song with angelic vocals (by Mimi Parker) and sleigh bells echoing in the background.

Series guest band Rooney performs "Merry X-mas Everybody" with its characteristic California style that complements the drama's vibe. Eels's "Christmas Is Going to the Dogs" could possibly be 2004's answer to the 1984 parody song "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."

The album is short, sweet and makes a perfect gift for any "O.C." enthusiast. CARRIE TOLLES (AP)

Today's Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Rabbit Punch Lines: Charles Fleischer

Character actor supreme, star of HBO's "One Night Stand" and, most famously, the voice of Roger Rabbit in the 1988 film starring said hilarious hare, Charles Fleischer works the stand-up thing.

Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW; through Dec. 5, 8:30 p.m., \$15; 202-296-7008. (Farragut North)

Whisky River: Scotch Festival

Och! And salut! And hic! The cyber-foodies at TasteDC.com put on its first Scotch Whisky Festival, just in time for the chilly weather, when a drop of the peaty stuff is most satisfying. There will be more than 150 Irish whiskies, bourbons and single malts to taste and buy.

Watergate Hotel, 2650 Virginia Ave. NW; 7-9:30 p.m., \$75; 202-244-3700 or www.tastedc.com. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

Boots Camp: Nancy Sinatra

She still looks fine in those boots and still has the voice to back up any claim her footwear chooses to make. Sixties icon and child of Frank Nancy, Sinatra brings the power of the pop to thirsty masses.

Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 7:30 p.m., \$25; 703-549-7500.



Nancy Sinatra's sunglasses were made for blockin' harmful UV rays.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Entertainment

A Lady Tells All

Designer Gloria Vanderbilt puts out a romantic memoir

LOOKING BACK | "I find sex endlessly interesting," heiress Gloria Vanderbilt writes in the beginning of her slim new memoir. The rest of the book confirms her fascination with the subject.

"It Seemed Important at the Time: A Romance Memoir" begins with a sexual caper with a girlfriend at school, then journeys to Hollywood, where she was secretly engaged to Van Heflin and dated such luminaries as Frank Sinatra, Marlon Brando, Errol Flynn, Howard Hughes, Bruce Cabot and George Montgomery. Vanderbilt recalls Sinatra "circling around my secret heart," but that fling finally ended. So did three of her marriages: to Hollywood agent Pat De Cicco; to the imperious symphony conductor Leopold Stokowski, father of her two sons; to film director Sidney Lumet.

Her only happy marriage was to Southern author Wyatt Cooper, father of two more sons.

"I've had many, many loves,"

she remarked in an interview. "I always feel that something wonderful is going to happen. And it always does."

Gloria Vanderbilt has been in the public eye virtually since she was born into two of America's most famous old-money families, the Vanderbilts and the Whitneys. When she was 10, she was portrayed as the poor little rich girl fought over in a sensational custody trial.

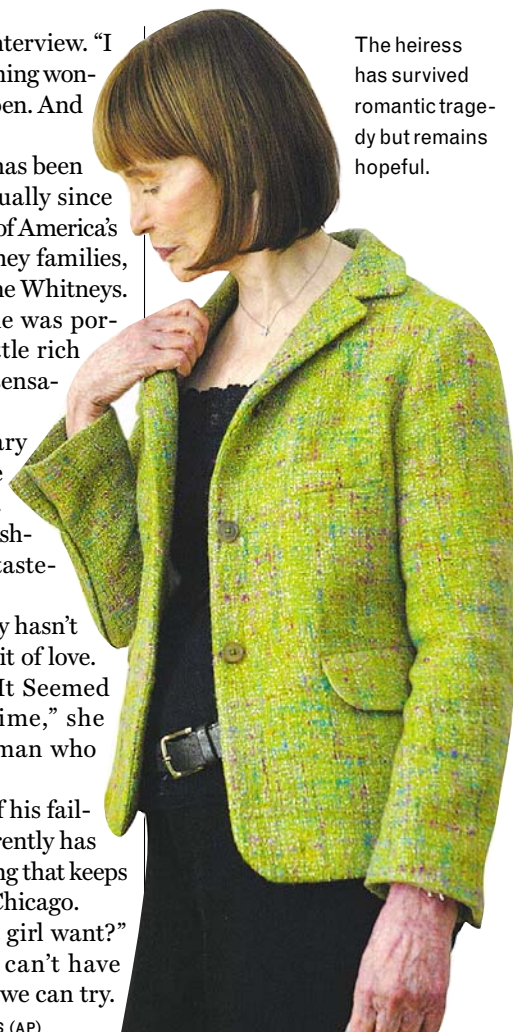
At 80, her legendary beauty seems little changed. As befits a designer of women's fashion, she dresses in a tastefully elegant style.

And she apparently hasn't abandoned her pursuit of love. Toward the end of "It Seemed Important at the Time," she writes of a mystery man who lives in Chicago.

She lists a dozen of his failings, and yet he apparently has a method of lovemaking that keeps drawing her back to Chicago.

"What more can a girl want?" she concluded. "We can't have everything — but oh, we can try. We can try." BOB THOMAS (AP)

The heiress has survived romantic tragedy but remains hopeful.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP



COURTESY EMBASSY OF NORWAY

Last year's Union Station tree was a twinkle with Nordic white lights.

Today's Top Stops

Continued from preceding page

Winter Wonderland: Christmas Tree Lighting

4 The official Washington, D.C. holiday season doesn't begin, according to our friends from the chilly north, until this evening, when Norwegian Christmas kicks off with the lighting of the tree at Union Station. No less a member of royalty than Norwegian Princess Märthe Louise will set the thing aglow, and the seasonal festivities, which are many, varied and all over town, may begin.

Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE; 6 p.m., free; 202-333-6000. (Union Station)

Underwater Angel: Titanic Lecture

5 Robert Ballard has been poking around the remains of the world's most famous sunken ship. In "Return to Titanic," he discusses conservation efforts on behalf of what's left of the old dame.

National Geographic Society, 1145 17th St. NW; 5:30 & 8 p.m., \$20-\$30; 202-857-7700. (Farragut North)

Embassy Series: Christopher Ungerer

6 As part of the Embassy Series, pianist Christopher Ungerer tickles the ivories — or something much more elegant — in his Washington debut.

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, 4645 Reservoir Road; NW; 8 p.m., \$45; 202-625-2361. (Farragut North)

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Entertainment



MADELINE FOR TV: The people are prettier but the subject is just as moving: The story of political journalist Morton Kondracke's wife's struggle with Parkinson's disease is coming to a TV station near you. Bruce Greenwood and Madeleine Stowe star in "Saving Milly" for CBS.

Television War

Steven Bochco brings Iraq into living rooms

CURRENT EVENTS | In the first 18 months after the United States invaded Iraq, Hollywood didn't exactly scramble to dramatize the war. But that was before Steven Bochco reported for duty.

The TV producer, never one to shrink from controversy, has joined cable network FX to create "Over There" — a gory, profanity-laced, \$4-million series pilot following six soldiers in Iraq and their families in the United States. The producers are due to start shooting Jan. 7.

Because "Over There" is still no more than a proposal for a series, there's no guarantee that viewers will ever see the result, although FX has ordered several scripts for additional episodes with an eye toward a summer 2005 launch.

As the real war offers not just bitter controversy but dramatic and often harrowing daily accounts of urban combat, "Over There" is the

kind of project that can keep a TV boss awake nights. Already, executives at 20th Century Fox Television, which is financing the series, have found themselves reassuring nervous buyers in Europe, where anti-war sentiment runs high.

And it is being developed at a time when the U.S. media landscape is crackling with politically charged controversies, ranging from media reports on the administration's rationale for going to war to a Veterans Day flap in which many ABC affiliates refused to air "Saving Private Ryan" because of concerns about government fines.

Bochco, 60, said last week that "Over There" would transcend politics by focusing on the universal theme of soldiers fighting overseas and the strain that puts on their families back home.

"One of the things I've always prided myself on is that whatever my



Producer Bochco was never one to shy away from controversial subjects.

own politics may be, I don't think they've leached into my work. And I think that's appropriate."

The continuing instability in Iraq has made many network executives leery of the subject matter. "No one knows what's going to happen six months from now, and there's so much opinion pro and con," said one TV script agent. "It would be like writing [a TV show] about Vietnam when we're still in Vietnam."

SCOTT COLLINS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Keeping The Beat

The Kumbia Kings combine rap, funk, R&B and Latin rock

MUSIC | To judge the degree of influence wielded by Kumbia Kings, one need only look at the numbers.

Earlier this year, the Texas-based band simultaneously had two albums on the Billboard Top Latin Albums chart. At the same time, the act was competing against a host of spinoff groups, including K1, DJ Kane and Frankie J, all of which count among their ranks former Kumbia Kings members, and boast a sound similar to that of their former group.

Kumbia Kings' sound is crafted by bass player A.B. Quintanilla III and keyboardist Cruz Martinez, who launched the band in 2000. The group — which includes guitarist Chris Perez — plays a unique style of contemporary cumbia, reminiscent of the material that Quintanilla wrote and produced for his sister, the late Selena. But mixed in are elements of R&B, rap and funk.

"A.B. puts something into his mixes that only he knows," Ortuno said. "He's like a cook with a secret ingredient."

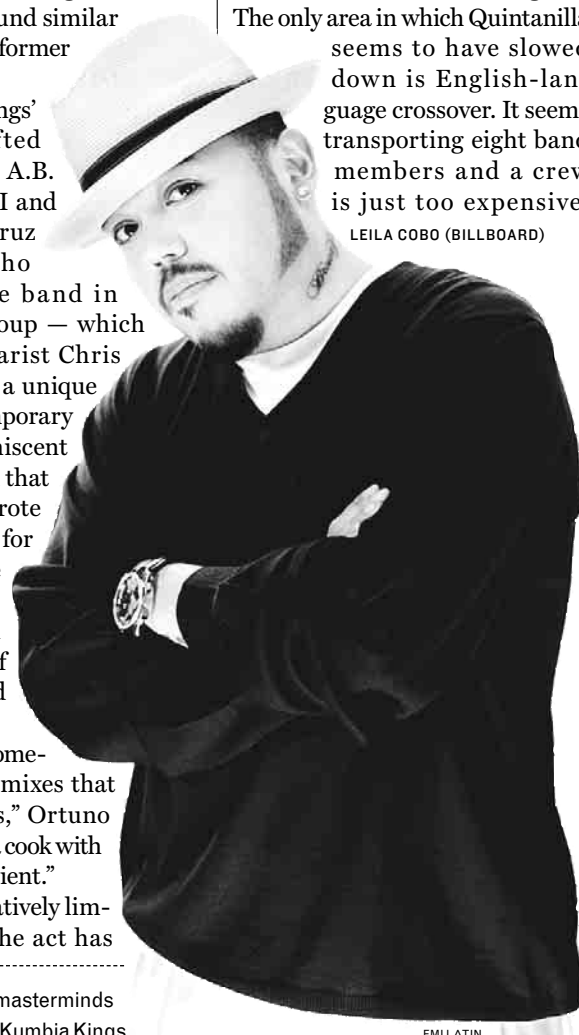
Despite relatively limited airplay, the act has

proved to be an extraordinarily strong seller. The Kings' success has been fueled by relentless touring and a large fan base that has expanded beyond the group's native Texas.

And Kumbia Kings have managed to expand their image in ways that go beyond their own albums. Because the anchors of the band are instrumentalists, the group's sound, like that of Carlos Santana, is built not upon distinctive vocals, but grooves, beats and melodies.

Quintanilla is always seeking new brand extensions. In the works, he said, is a film and a clothing line. The only area in which Quintanilla seems to have slowed down is English-language crossover. It seems transporting eight band members and a crew is just too expensive.

LEILA COBO (BILLBOARD)



A.B. Quintanilla masterminds Latin sensations Kumbia Kings.

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MULTI-TASKING: A successful TV series isn't enough for Amy Davidson; oh, no. The 25-year-old actress also hosts the new Nick at Nite game show, "Family Face-Off: Hollywood," along with co-host John Salley. The series has not been well reviewed, but fortunately Davidson has another day job.

Entertainment

'Half-Life 2': Twice the Game

VIDEO GAMES | It's been six years since Valve Corp. perfected the first-person shooter with "Half-Life." Video games have come a long way since, but, relatively few games have equaled this one's memorable characters and original science-fiction story.

"Half-Life 2" is a brilliant sequel

that raises the bar on what we should expect from video games.

We begin with physicist-turned-action hero Gordon Freeman awakening from an inexplicable dimensional stasis by a creepy, enigmatic G-Man.

As Freeman, you materialize on a train bound for City 17, apparently

one of the last remaining outposts after humans have surrendered to alien invaders.

Mix "The War of the Worlds," "The X-Files" and spacy episodes of "The Twilight Zone" and you get a sense for the unnerving strangeness of this place.

The graphics are unsurpassed



ALIEN PEDESTRIAN: Freeman searches for those behind the invasion of Earth.

— colorful settings include seaside highways, decaying urban centers, abandoned prisons and a jaw-dropping sequence from within an alien fortress.

Perhaps the only complaint with "Half-Life 2" is the bizarre story. The tidbits that were disclosed were constantly being piled on with little explanation. Instead of moments of revelation, players receive even murkier plot development.

MATT SLAGLE (AP)



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RAY (PG-13) (11:20 3:00) 6:20 10:00
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★ ALEXANDER (R) (11:05 3:05) 7:00 11:00
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(ON 2 SCREENS) (2:00 4:45)
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RAY (PG-13) (1:30 5:00) 8:50

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RAY (PG-13) (12:00 3:20) 6:30 9:40
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FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (4:15) 6:50 9:30

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THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (12:40 3:20) 6:25 9:10
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RAY (PG-13) (12:20 3:30) 6:40
AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13) 9:50

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RAY (PG-13) (11:40 3:10) 7:10 10:20
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (1:30 4:40) 7:30 9:50
ALFIE (R) (11:50)

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RAY (PG-13) (1:00 4:30) 8:00

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655 745 930
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) (Stadium) DIG (1120 135 215 430 510) 650
725 810 950 1020
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1205 225 445) 705
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AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1215 235 455) 715 940
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SEED OF CHUCKY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) 1025
POLAR EXPRESS (G) (Stadium) DIG (1140 205 420) 640 905
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (Stadium) DIG (1105 115 150 405 435) 720 1005
RAY (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1220 335) 700 1015

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FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) ★ DIG (1110 155 430) 710 940
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) ★ 755 1025
KINSEY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1125 215 500) 750 1035
AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13) DIG (1155 230 510) 730 955
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THE GRUDGE (PG-13) DIG 925
SHALL WE DANCE (PG-13) DIG (1130 150 420) 655
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (PG-13) DIG (1120 210) 720 1005
MOTORCYCLE DIARIES (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1255 415) 715 1000

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ALEXANDER (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 400 800 925
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) ★ (150 220 420 510) 700 750
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POLAR EXPRESS (G) (1115 155 425) 710 1005
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ALEXANDER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) (1105 1200 300 400) 700 800
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CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) DIG ★ (Stadium) (1225 120 250
425 520) 705 750 1020
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) DIG (Stadium) (115 355) 715 955
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1100 1220 110 140 330 410
440) 640 710 740 940 1005 1035
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415 450) 650 725 910
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SEED OF CHUCKY (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) DIG 950
POLAR EXPRESS (G) (Stadium) DIG (1115 155 435) 655 915
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1210 100 130 320 350 430) 630
730 920 1030
RAY (PG-13) (Stadium) DIG (1105 240) 635 1010
SAW (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) 735 1015
THE GRUDGE (PG-13) (Stadium) DIG 930

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HOME OWNERS: The Toronto Blue Jays agreed to buy SkyDome, the team's ballpark, for about \$21.24 million. The 50,000-seat stadium cost about \$375 million to construct and is owned by Sportsco International LP, a Chicago-based group of investors.



Sports

Portis Conspicuous By His Absence

Star running back has seen playing time drop in recent losses

REDSKINS | The score is 946 to 945, and Clinton Portis is losing.

The Washington Redskins running back, conspicuous by his absence in another feeble effort by the offense, has fallen one yard behind the Denver Broncos' latest running-back-from-nowhere in the unofficial race to shake down the teams' blockbuster offseason trade.

Out in the Rockies, Reuben Droughns has come on strong to follow the tradition of Terrell Davis, Olandis Gary, Mike Anderson and Portis as the Broncos challenge for a playoff berth. Back east, Portis is getting marginalized in a struggling offense for a team going nowhere.

Portis had just six carries for 17 yards when the Redskins (3-8) lost 16-7 to Pittsburgh on Sunday. He was on the bench for long chunks of time, including the entire 13-play drive that resulted in Washington's only touchdown.

"Certainly we'd love to have Clinton get his full share of carries," coach Joe Gibbs said. "Looking back on it: would you like to run the ball more? Yeah. We certainly want a mix in there, but it's my responsibility to get us more runs in there."



BENCHED: Coach Joe Gibbs says Clinton Portis, above, isn't in the doghouse, but his playing time has been cut drastically.

Gibbs relied heavily on Portis in the first half of the season, putting him on pace to shatter team records in carries and yards. The Redskins are 3-0 when Portis rushes for 100 yards, 0-8 when he doesn't.

But Portis had just 17 car-

ries against both Cincinnati and Philadelphia. On the year, he has 244 carries for 945 yards, while Droughns has 202 carries for 946 yards.

The Redskins are now on pace to rush for nearly the same number of yards as last year's 5-11 team under

pass-happy coach Steve Spurrier.

Gibbs said Portis isn't in the doghouse for any reason. He also cited an early 10-point deficit Sunday for his decision to throw more. "I'd like it to be balanced," Gibbs said.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

BCS Has No Room For Auburn

If Orange Bowl doesn't call, Tigers may not get shot at 11-0 Utah either

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | If Auburn can't get to the Orange Bowl with an 12-0 record, the Bowl Championship Series has no plans to pair the Tigers with Utah and create a second matchup of unbeaten teams.

The Tigers are still stuck behind first-place Southern California and second-place Oklahoma in the BCS standings released Monday.

If USC (11-0) wins at UCLA on Saturday and Oklahoma (11-0) beats Colorado in the Big 12 title game, the Trojans and Sooners will likely play for the BCS championship in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

That would leave Auburn (11-0) out, no matter what it does against Tennessee in the Southeastern Conference title game in Atlanta.

Utah (11-0) remained sixth in the latest standings and is likely headed to the Fiesta Bowl.

Auburn would be contractually obligated to play in the Sugar Bowl if it wins the SEC and does not reach the national championship game. For Utah and Auburn to play each other, either the Sugar or Fiesta would have to acquiesce.

Big 12 commissioner and BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg said the BCS could step in to create an Auburn-Utah game, but he isn't anticipating it. RALPH D. RUSSO (AP)

THE BCS STANDINGS

- 1 Southern Cal
- 2 Oklahoma
- 3 Auburn
- 4 California
- 5 Texas
- 6 Utah
- 7 Georgia
- 8 Boise St.
- 9 Louisville
- 10 Miami

More BCS mess: No. 5 Texas may be left out of all the of BCS major bowl games | Today's Post, Sports

Red-Hot Virginia Cracks AP Top 25

ACC matches record with 7 teams in rankings

COLLEGE HOOPS | By virtue of victories over Arizona and Richmond, Virginia moved into The Associated Press' men's college basketball Top 25 Monday, giving the Atlantic Coast Conference a record-tying seven teams in the poll.

Wake Forest extended its lead at No. 1, the Cavaliers were No. 24, and there were five other conference schools in between, matching the feat accomplished twice by the Big Ten and once by the ACC.

The Demon Deacons (5-0) used their Preseason NIT championship to pull away from No. 2 Kansas (2-0). Wake Forest had 40 first-

place votes and 1,737 points from the national media panel, while the Jayhawks were No. 1 on 18 ballots and had 1,678 points.

The other ranked ACC teams were No. 4 Georgia Tech, No. 9 North Carolina, No. 10 Duke, No. 12 Maryland and No. 16 North Carolina State.

The biggest drop of the week was shared by Louisville and Wisconsin. The Cardinals fell from 12th to 17th after finishing fifth at Maui. Wisconsin, which hosts Maryland Tuesday, dropped from 20th to 25th following a 75-61 loss at Pepperdine.

JIM O'CONNELL (AP)



Virginia's Gary Forbes drives to the basket in Sunday's win over Richmond.

Future Nationals Add Bennett as Reserve Catcher

BASEBALL | Catcher Gary Bennett agreed Monday to a \$750,000, one-year contract with the Washington-bound Expos, who will be renamed the Nationals if their move is approved by the baseball owners in December.

Bennett, 32, fulfills the team's need for a backup to Brian Schneider. Bennett hit .224 with three home runs and 20 RBIs in 75 games for Milwaukee last year. He is a career .247 hitter in nine seasons. His best season came with San Diego in 2003, when he had 42 RBIs in 96 games. (AP)

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Sports

Learning on the Job for Manning

Giants' struggling rookie quarterback will play vs. Redskins

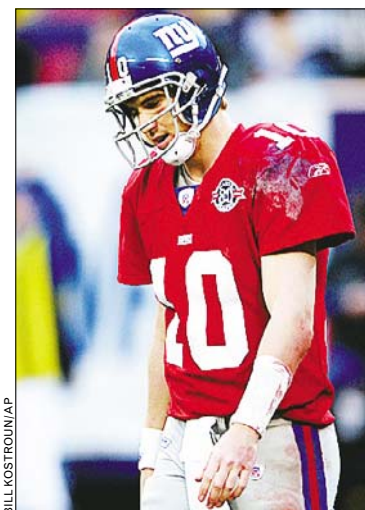
FOOTBALL | One bad game isn't going to cost Eli Manning a job.

Giants coach Tom Coughlin said he never considered pulling Manning during a woeful performance against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, and he insisted the No. 1 overall draft pick gives New York (5-6) its best chance to win.

"I still feel we needed to make the change just to get a spark going," Coughlin said Monday of his decision two weeks ago to bench Kurt Warner. "So far we haven't seen the production, but I still think it is the right move."

Manning has shown flashes of promise in his first two starts. He rallied the Giants in the second half of a 14-10 loss to Atlanta and he moved the offense in the first half against the Eagles, completing two 50-plus yard passes to rookie receiver Jamaar Taylor.

However, the brother of NFL co-MVP Peyton Manning has put the ball in the end zone once in those games in seeing the Giants' losing streak reach four games heading



A dejected Eli Manning heads off the field in Sunday's loss to the Eagles.

into Sunday's match-up with the Redskins.

Manning finished 6-of-21 for 148 yards Sunday, two interceptions and a 16.9 quarterback rating against the Eagles. While he didn't read newspaper accounts of his performance on Monday, Manning watched game film and graded his own performance.

"Not a very good one," Manning said Monday, standing in front of his locker. "I didn't play well, and I know I didn't. I have to get better."

TOM CANAVAN (AP)

NFL Insider: Mark Maske will discuss the Redskins and the rest of the news around the National Football League at 1 p.m. | www.washingtonpost.com/liveonline

NBA

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ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
New York	6	6	.500	—	6-4	4-3
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	.5	5-5	6-4
Toronto	6	9	.400	1.5	2-8	2-3
Boston	4	8	.333	2	4-6	2-7
New Jersey	2	11	.154	4.5	1-9	1-3
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Indiana	10	4	.714	—	6-4	8-2
Cleveland	9	4	.692	.5	9-1	7-4
Detroit	6	7	.462	3.5	4-6	3-5
Milwaukee	4	7	.364	4.5	4-6	3-3
Chicago	1	10	.091	8	1-9	0-3
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Miami	10	5	.667	—	6-4	9-1
Orlando	8	4	.667	—	6-4	4-3
Washington	7	5	.583	1.5	5-5	6-4
Charlotte	3	9	.250	5.5	2-8	3-7
Atlanta	2	11	.154	7	2-8	0-6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Seattle	13	2	.867	—	9-1	6-1
Minnesota	8	5	.615	4	6-4	6-2
Utah	8	6	.571	4.5	4-6	5-2
Portland	7	6	.538	5	5-5	2-3
Denver	7	6	.538	5	6-4	3-6

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Phoenix	11	2	.846	—	8-2	5-1
Sacramento	8	5	.615	3	8-2	5-5
L.A. Lakers	8	6	.571	3.5	6-4	5-5
L.A. Clippers	8	6	.571	3.5	6-4	4-4
Golden State	3	10	.231	8	3-7	1-9

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
San Antonio	11	3	.786	—	8-2	6-2
Dallas	10	5	.667	1.5	6-4	6-4
Houston	6	9	.400	5.5	3-7	5-5
Memphis	5	9	.357	6	5-5	5-8
New Orleans	1	11	.083	9	1-9	1-8

Standings through Nov. 28 games



HALL OF INFAMY? The often-troubled Darryl Strawberry, an eight-time All-Star, leads the group of 12 players—including batting champions Wade Boggs and Willie McGee—who will appear on the baseball Hall of Fame ballot for the first time this year.

Sports

In Brief

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Terrapins, Hokies Named ACC Players of the Week

Virginia Tech's Bryan Randall, Josh Hyman and Vinnie Burns were among those honored as ACC players of the week in football after the conference-leading 10th-ranked Hokies' 24-10 victory against No. 18 Virginia on Saturday. The conference also recognized center Kyle

Schmitt, defensive end Shawne Merriman and defensive back Chris Kelley, all from Maryland, for their play in the Terrapins' 13-7 victory against Wake Forest. (AP)

PRO FOOTBALL Cardinals Make Another QB Change, Promote Navarre

The Arizona Cardinals are turning to yet another quarterback, this time rookie John Navarre. The seventh-round draft pick from Michigan, who never has taken a snap in an NFL regular-season game, will

make his debut Sunday when the Cardinals visit Detroit. Coach Dennis Green announced the move Monday, benching Shaun King after two starts and going with Navarre over Josh McCown, who had the job for the first nine games. (AP)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Stanford Fires Head Coach

Stanford football coach Buddy Teevens was fired Monday after three straight losing seasons. "It was an extremely difficult decision, but I simply felt that the pro-

gram was in need of new direction and leadership," athletic director Ted Leland said. Leland, a close friend of Teevens, met with the coach last week after the Cardinal finished 4-7 for the second consecutive year. Stanford lost 41-6 to archrival California in the Big Game on Nov. 20 for its fifth straight defeat, ending a season that began 4-2 with hopes of a bowl game. (AP)

Bowled over: Virginia is working on a deal to play in the Independence Bowl | washingtonpost.com/sports

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

COLLEGE HOOPS (9:30 P.M. ON ESPN2) After dominating Memphis over the weekend, Maryland sets its sights on Wisconsin in a ACC-Big Ten Challenge in Madison.

COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN) No. 3 Georgia Tech hosts Michigan.

COLLEGE HOOPS (9 P.M. ON ESPN) Michigan State and Duke square off in a battle of top 10 teams.

NBA (8:30 P.M. ON NBA-TV) State pride are on the line between the San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks.

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Religion

New greeting cards blend Christmas and Hanukkah themes

Every December, Zack Rudman used to send out nonsectarian cards with winter scenes and generic holiday greetings.

The Kansas City lawyer has found a variety that better suits a Jewish man and an Episcopal woman with two children as familiar with the menorah as a manger scene.

These cards proclaim:

"Merry Chrismukkah!"

Christmas and Hanukkah, holidays that share little more than a calendar page, are increasingly melded on cards aimed at the country's estimated 2.5 million families with Jewish and Christian members.

"It's representative of the way



JUDIANITY? Chrismukkah's cards rethink what mixed-religion families might hang from the tree or use in a menorah.



Hybrid Holidays

people live and the way they spend the holidays," said Elise Okrend, an owner of Raleigh, N.C.-based MixedBlessing, devoted to interfaith holiday greetings. "And it's an expression of people understanding the people around them."

Okrend projects sales of 200,000

TV TERM: "The O.C." celebrates Chrismukkah.

cards from Mixed Blessing's 55-card line this year.

Kansas City-based Hallmark Cards Inc. said its popular Hanukkah cards combine Jewish and Christian themes.

"The essence of these cards is not about interfaith households, as much as it is about friends and family members of different faiths acknowledging the different holidays that they all celebrate," said Shalanda Stanley, a Hallmark prod-

uct manager.

American Greetings Corp. has about 10 Hanukkah-Christmas line offerings this year.

One of its cards shows three snowmen — two dressed in winter hats and scarves, the third wearing a yarmulke and prayer shawl.

Ron Gompertz founded his interfaith greeting cards company, Chrismukkah, this year, inspired by the Fox series "The O.C.," in which character Seth Cohen (played by

Adam Brody), whose mother is Protestant and father is Jewish, uses the term.

"It's a little bit of both," Gompertz — Jewish and married to the daughter of a Protestant minister — explained, adding they merge "the secular aspects of the holidays."

Cards from Chrismukkah, based in Livingston, Mt., include images of a Christmas tree decorated with dreidels and a menorah filled with candy canes. MATT SEDENSKY (AP)

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Michael Wilbon

Chat House

Washington Post sports columnist **MICHAEL WILBON** was online Monday to discuss the Redskins' loss Sunday and D.C. baseball | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

It seems like Coach Gibbs is field testing different possibilities, as if he is looking toward the off-season and discovering where his biggest problems are under pressure. Or maybe he sees things during practice that never materialize on Sunday. Do you have any insight?

I don't think Joe is consciously doing what you and I wonder about. But I think he might be at a loss for how to get the offense jump-started, and he's trying different things. I, by the way, would understand that to a degree. It's not like this team is going to make the playoffs — not after the loss to the Bengals. So maybe he's just intent on finding out what he's got so that he can make some absolute decisions.

If that's the case — and I'm just supposing all this myself — it might not be a bad idea.

Am I the only one who was impressed by Patrick Ramsey's throws? It's almost as if the receivers are not used to catching a ball with that much heat on it.

Let's not turn Patrick Ramsey into Peyton Manning, OK? Ramsey

missed a whole lot of throws, and more than a few bounced off the hands of Steelers defenders. He's got an arm; we know that. He had a few drops. But he makes some bad throws. It's not like he's putting it on a dime all the time. The Redskins still need to find or develop a quarterback.

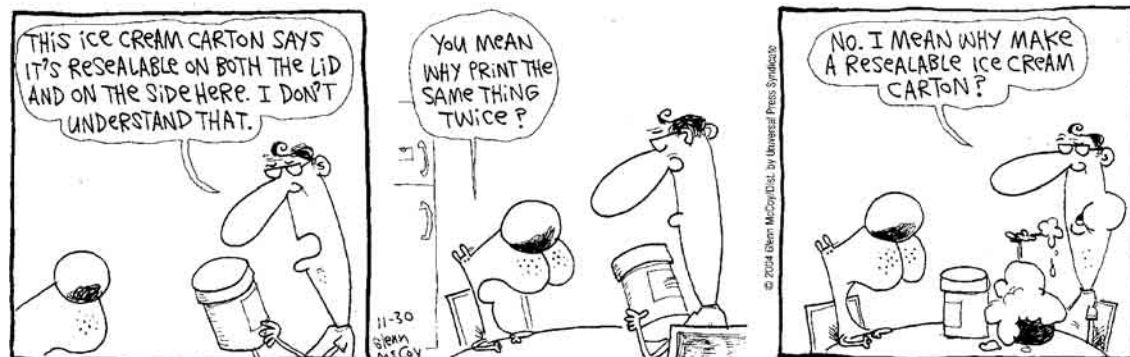
I liked your column a while back about naming the new baseball team the "Grays." Why do you think the team opted for the Nationals instead? That name is dull.

It is dull. And the logo is absolutely dull. But I think it's a compromise between "Senators," which Mayor Williams disliked because D.C. doesn't have representation in the Senate, and "Grays," which the mayor wanted. This, after all, is Washington. Imagination and creativity may be strengths elsewhere, but not here. We're about the status quo, and a status quo nickname is what the baseball team has.

→ Today on Live Online

NOON: The Post's Gene Weingarten discusses his column, "Below the Beltway."

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

'Rudolph' Is Unrealistic

CAN'T WE GET that yucky "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" program off pre-Christmas network television? Doesn't anybody notice that in this show it is the adult reindeer

who make life hard for Rudolph — not just by a little teasing, but by complete rejection? Doesn't anyone care that none of them ever say "I'm sorry" for their transgressions? They accept Rudolph as an equal only when he has been a hero, when his flashing nose, which lights the way through dark winter nights, becomes an asset. In reality, chil-

dren who are "different" face the same kind of rejection. But the number who win acceptance by being a hero is very few.

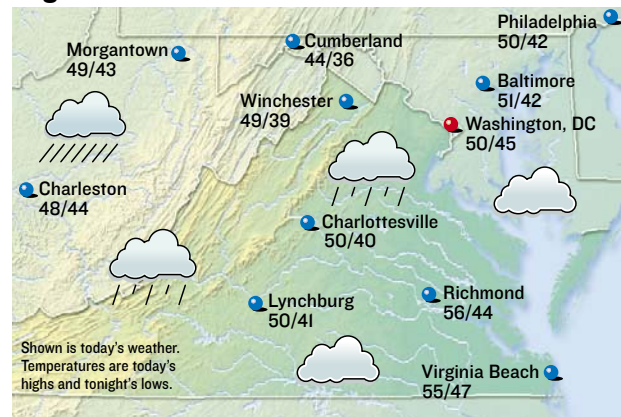
—MARY HITCHCOCK
Washington, D.C.

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5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly cloudy	Cloudy, windy late, rain	Windy, rain ending late	Partly sunny	Partly sunny, chilly	Mostly sunny
50°	45°	58° / 40°	56° / 36°	50° / 32°	46° / 32°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Mon.

Temperature

High	51°
Low	39°
Normal high	52°
Normal low	36°
Average humidity	49%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	4.48"
Normal month to date	2.93"
Year to date	39.42"
Last year to date	56.51"
Normal year to date	36.31"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

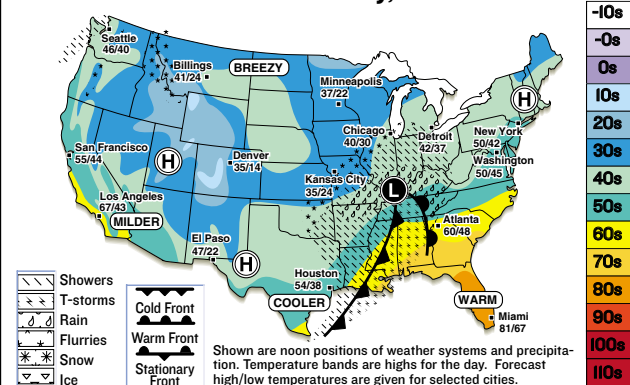
D.C. Metro: Today, mostly cloudy. High 50. Wind becoming southeast 5-10 mph. Tonight, cloudy, becoming windy, rain late. Low 45.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:07 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:46 p.m.
Moonsset today	10:37 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 26

National Weather for Tuesday, November 30



National Cities

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	60/48/r	53/38/r
Boston	46/38/pc	48/38/r
Chicago	40/30/sn	42/26/pc
Dallas	48/31/r	58/35/s
Denver	35/14/pc	34/16/pc
Honolulu	84/74/sh	84/72/pc
Los Angeles	67/43/s	67/45/s
Miami	81/67/s	83/68/pc
New York City	50/42/c	54/38/r
Orlando	82/60/s	82/58/pc
Seattle	46/40/sh	48/38/sh

World Cities

City	Today	Wed.
Amsterdam	45/37/pc	40/35/sh
Athens	62/50/c	62/52/c
Berlin	43/37/pc	44/32/pc
Buenos Aires	88/66/s	90/68/s
Calgary	37/22/pc	33/22/pc
Dublin	48/39/r	44/35/r
Geneva	39/30/sn	40/38/c
Moscow	22/12/c	21/16/sn
Rome	55/43/r	55/46/r
Sydney	88/68/pc	86/61/pc
Tokyo	55/39/pc	52/43/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

LOOK out

People

MODELS

Jealous, Tyra Banks Calls 'Top Model' Cinema Verite

HEIDI KLUM is hosting her own reality TV show, but that doesn't mean she's a big fan of the genre. The supermodel prefers to call "Project Runway" — a contest among 12 aspiring fashion designers that premieres Wednesday on Bravo — a documentary. "We're going to show the public what it's like to be a designer. ... What we're looking for is who is talented, not who is the funniest, not who is good-looking," Klum said. (AP)



Heidi Klum laughs at the idea that she's making a tawdry old reality show.



ROBERT GALBRAITH/REUTERS

NON-PEOPLE

Smoke Scene

In a publicity stunt that cheapens stars given to living, breathing actors, **GODZILLA** received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Monday. He was accompanied by several humans, including Shogo Tomiyama, right. The film "Godzilla: Final Wars" premiered Monday as well. (EXPRESS)



ROBERT GALBRAITH/REUTERS

RELICS

Advice to Famous Authors: Burn It or We Will Read It

A manuscript of **TRUMAN CAPOTE's** unpublished first novel will be auctioned this week at Sotheby's. The first draft of "Summer Crossing" — the story of a 17-year-old girl who has been left in New York while her parents spend the summer in Europe — was at the bottom of a box con-

signed by a relative of Capote's former house sitter. Capote had hired the house sitter to look after his Brooklyn apartment while he was away writing "In Cold Blood." He later closed the apartment, abandoning any possessions there. The house sitter retrieved the box from the sidewalk. (AP)



OUCHIES

'Ocean's Twelve' Back Down to Eleven

GEORGE CLOONEY is suffering from a ruptured disk that kept him from promoting his new film, "Ocean's Twelve," this week. Clooney had been scheduled to travel to New York Sunday for appearances on shows including "Good Morning America," "The Daily Show" and "Charlie Rose,"

his spokesman, Stan Rosenfield, said Monday. But Clooney told Rosenfield on Saturday that his condition had worsened and he would be unable to travel. Rosenfield said he didn't have information on how or when the injury occurred, but that Clooney is being treated. (AP)



PARANOIA

Diana Body Count Up One

PRINCESS DIANA believed that one of her lovers was "bumped off," according to tapes broadcast on NBC Monday night. Diana talks about Barry Mannakee, a policeman assigned to protect her. "It was all found out and he was chucked out. And then he was killed," Diana says. "And I think he was bumped off. ... He was greatest fella I've ever had." Mannakee died in a motorcycle accident in 1987. (AP)



CONFUSION

So Does This Make Her a Good Example or a Bad One?

JAMIE LEE CURTIS found the bikini scene she had to do for "Christmas With the Cranks" "humiliating." She said she didn't "do a Bridget Jones" — that how she looks. The 45-year-old actress came out against plastic surgery two years ago, saying liposuction and Botox didn't work for her. Now, she said, she is trying to project a positive image of her natural body. (AP)



I've come to terms with my aging body!

AP

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1782

On Nov. 30, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles, ending the Revolutionary War; also, in 1954, an Alabama woman was slightly hurt when an 8 1/2-pound meteorite crashed into her house.

Tattle | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

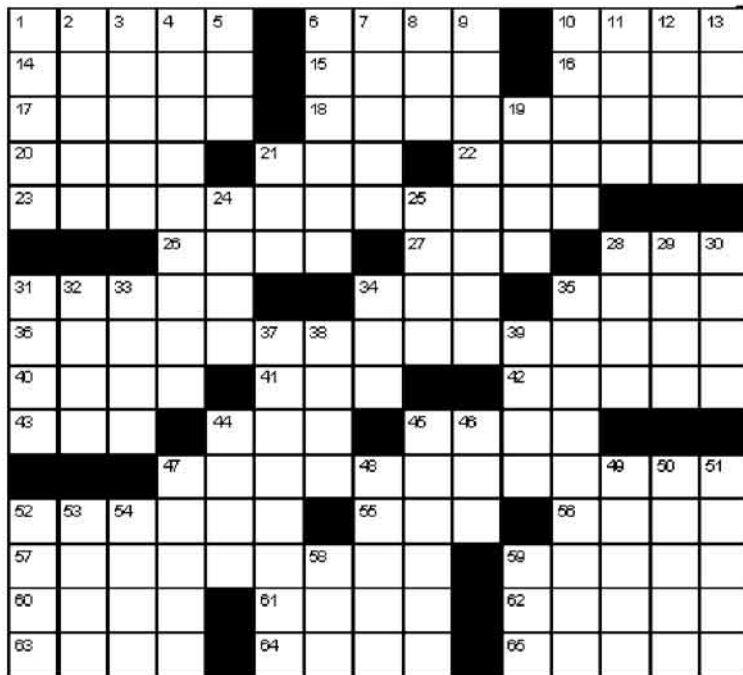
ACROSS

1 Follow wild geese?
6 Swing a spar around
10 South American cattle-catcher
14 Caesar, for one
15 Crumbly clay mixture
16 Balder's dad
17 Putting to work
18 Central
20 Repair
21 Airport stat.
22 Indian strikers?
23 Tattle
26 Members of "The First Wives Club"
27 Is doubled?
28 Chickadee feature
31 Liszt piece
34 Angle lead-in
35 Whale of a movie
36 Tattle
40 Ballet movement
41 The puck stops here
42 Dylan's were "A-Changin'"
43 Up to now
44 Ike's monogram
45 Man from U.N.C.L.E.
47 Tattle
52 Capt. Ahab or his ship
55 Place for the rudder

56 Shank of the sitar
57 Awe
59 One for whom all roads lead to roam?
60 Part of LAN Corp.
61 magnates
62 Give the slip
63 Hair division
64 Critical evaluation
65 Let out or take in

DOWN

1 "Who's Harry?" (1989)
2 Golf club socket
3 Protein acid
4 Tool for Tiger
5 Famous Siamese twin
6 Metalworkers
7 Maui neighbor
8 Coffeepot
9 Running off current
10 Frozen dessert
11 Pervasive quality
12 Da Vinci model
13 They may be in one's pants
19 Actor's gig
21 Member of the flock
24 Henie's leap
25 "Love Songs" poet Teasdale
28 Burn the midnight oil
29 "God's Little"



30 Hands over a check
31 Catch sight of
32 Grouter's piece
33 School credit
34 1968 offensive
35 Deli choice
37 Roundabout
38 Acutely sensitive
39 Brynhild's brother, in myth
44 Mover and shaker
45 Most secure
46 Frequent, in rhyme
47 Fabric fold
48 Monterrey lunch items
49 It's often run
50 Give the slip
51 Legal addendum
52 Word with bubble or gift
53 Daughter of Cronus
54 State point-blank
58 Upper crust word
59 Kotter's org.?

Yesterday's Solution



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Are you willing to admit to something you didn't do simply to make things easier in some circles? If not, then stand your ground.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A look back yields a rare look at the way things really were at a time when you may have been too confused to see as clearly as possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Take care of others just as you would take care of yourself. You can have a little fun after dark — if you free up your schedule.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You should be able to have a fine, entertaining time without spending any more money than usual. Use your imagination whenever you can.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be willing to avoid a conflict at all costs. Aggressive behavior of any kind is not likely to pay off.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your reactions to unexpected circumstances may surprise even those who know you best. You're turning a corner and approaching new terrain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may be asked to explain yourself in some way, but there is nothing for you to feel defensive about for any reason. Be open, honest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Romantic situations abound, and it is up to you to take

advantage of an opportunity and turn it into an important personal episode.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Relaxation may be elusive early in the day, as your schedule becomes far busier than expected. In one swift move, however, you can ease it up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) One way or another, you'll be able to find the answer to a perplexing question. You may have to do the unusual to make any real headway.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The difference between a lie and the truth may seem vague during part of the day — until you conduct a little investigation of your own.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You may be able to overturn a decision that the authorities have recently handed down — simply because you're willing to do the legwork.

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“AM I MY SISTER'S KEEPER?”

WOMEN, GIRLS AND HIV/AIDS”

Declaration of Unity & Commitment

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, acknowledge that almost all major communicable and chronic diseases continue to plague women and specifically, women of color disproportionately. Moreover, in recent years, HIV/AIDS has emerged as a global pandemic, exposing more than any other health malady, the disparities that exist in the world, and more specifically, the District of Columbia.

As leaders in the District of Columbia representing major corporations, financial institutions, local businesses, educational institutions, news and marketing mediums, bi-partisan political affiliates, national organizations, faith-based organizations and as individuals personally and indirectly affected by the pandemic of HIV/AIDS, we stand united in our mission to put an end to HIV/AIDS once and for all.

As of November 23, 2004

Diane Simmons Williams
First Lady of the District of Columbia

Peggy Valentine, Ed.D.
Mayor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee

Maudine Cooper
Greater Washington Urban League

Sharon Hadary, Ph.D.
Center for Women's Business
Research

Anita R. Estelle, Esq.
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The Honorable Eleanor Holmes-Norton
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Cheryl R. Cooper
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The Honorable Carol Schwartz
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Pat Hawkins, Ph.D.
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ABC 7 News Anchor MAUREEN BUNYAN

DATE: December 1, 2004 • LOCATION: 801 K Street, N.W.
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Time: 11 am - 2 pm
Doors open at: 10:15 am

